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THINK FOOD

School Nutrition Programs

Shipment 11 (Final)

April 2012



ABC MEETING UPDATES

The OPI School Nutrition Programs ABC committee met in early March in Miles City, Great Falls and Missoula. All three meetings were well attended. Emily Dunklee presented information on the new dietary guidelines and the timeline for implementation of them.

On February 27, 2012, King's Command announced that they will no longer participate in the processing of USDA Foods. All three ABC groups discussed the options available to replace the King's Command products. Since Tyson beef was the second choice following King's Command on the 2013 USDA Foods orders, and Tyson has a similar Charbroiled Beef patty that is lower in sodium, the committee decided to send our bulk beef to Tyson for further processing. The state will also use the state matching funds to process the Tyson Charbroiled patty. Because of the short notice that King's Command would no longer participate in processing USDA Foods, a suitable replacement for the Breaded Beef Steak is not available. The OPI Cooperative Purchasing Program will pursue finding vendors that might have a comparable product for school year (SY) 2014.

The King's Command Charbroiled Beef Patties and Breaded Beef Steak products will remain available to purchase through your distributor. Food Distribution will no longer use USDA dollars to purchase beef to send to King's Command to process for your lunch programs.

The three ABC committee attendees also decided to continue processing the Tyson Chicken Patty Tenders using the state matching funds for SY 2013 but will re-evaluate that product for SY 2014 to look for a product that uses whole grains in its breading.

Due to our lower entitlement amount this year the OPI Food Distribution will only purchase one truck each of beef and chicken to send to Tyson for further processing using the state matching funds. The OPI USDA Foods order form will be available in early April for everyone to place their orders for those products.

The three ABC committee attendees also spent time going over the OPI Cooperative Purchase



Program order list looking to replace products with whole grains and lower sodium to meet the new dietary guidelines.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was created to serve nutritious meals to children when National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program meals are not available and to ensure that all children receive proper nutrition throughout the year.

Schools or nonprofits in areas with at least 50 percent free or reduced-price lunch participation can qualify to run a summer food site and receive federal reimbursement for each meal served during the summer break.

One in 10 people in Montana live in households where there is not always enough food. With more than 85,000 children living in such households, hunger is a real issue for Montana families.

If you are interested in starting a summer food site in your area contact Sofia Janik, OPI School Nutrition Programs at (406) 444-2521.

The application deadline for being a SFSP sponsor is **May 1, 2012**, for previous year sponsors, and **May 21, 2012**, for new sponsors. Previous year sponsors may begin updating their agreements online beginning April 2, 2012.

Visit the OPI School Nutrition Web site at: http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/Summer.html to learn more.

SFSP GETTING THE WORD OUT!



To ensure that all parents know about summer feeding sites and their locations, all schools are required to participate in the outreach. Notification must be provided to every household prior to the end of the school year. The OPI School Nutrition Programs Web site has several resources available to assist your school administrators in getting the word out. Those resources can be found by going to http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/Summer.html#gpm1_7.



DOD FRESH PROGRAM SIGN-UP

The USDA has moved the deadline for signing up to participate in the SY 2013 DoD Fresh Program. The applications are in the mail and must be returned to the OPI School Nutrition Programs office no later than **April 6, 2012**.

MONTANA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION SUMMER CONFERENCE

Don't forget to attend the Montana School Nutrition Association summer conference this year in Great Falls. The conference will be held June 19-21, 2012, at the Heritage Inn.

This year's conference is gearing up to be one of the best ever. The OPI School Nutrition Programs staff, along with Team Nutrition staff, will be providing updated information on the new meal patterns to meet the 2010 Dietary Guidelines that will need to be in place for the 2013 school year.

For more information, contact Carol Simanton by phone, (406) 674-5417, or by e-mail, h2ohlr@itstriangle.com.

